

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph from page 31, line 29 through page 32, line 12 (which is paragraph 90 in the published application) as follows:

[0090] The structure of the exemplary synthetic intron, OPTIVS8 is shown below (SEQ ID NO:13, ~~with residues #1 through #9 for CAGGTAAAGT; residues #93 through #99 for TACTAAC; residues #93 through #122 for TACTAACGGTTCTTTTTTCTCTTCACAGG; and residues # 102 #122 for TTCTTTTTTCTCTTCACAGG~~). Sequences for the 5' splice site (5'ss), branch point (bp), and 3' splice site (3'ss) are double underlined. The recognition sequences for the restriction enzymes BbsI and EarI are overlined. The cleavage site for BbsI corresponds to the 5'ss, and the cleavage site for EarI corresponds to the 3'ss. SEQ ID NO:13 shows an intron containing a stretch of 77 random nucleotides. ~~SEQ ID NO:10 residues from #1 through #15 for CAGGTAAAGTGTCTTC and SEQ ID NO:10 residues from #16 through #45 for TACTAACGGTTCTTTTTTCTCTTCACAGG.~~

SEQ ID NO:13 ~~10 (for the nucleotides shown below if depicted in a contiguous manner without random sequence (77))~~.

	5' ss		bp		3' ss
		<u>BbsI</u>		<u>EarI</u>	
5'	<u>CAG</u>	<u>GTAAGTGTCTTC</u>	---	(77) ---	<u>TACTAACGGTTCTTTTTTCTCTTCACAG</u>
3'					<u>G</u>